

Malbank School, Sixth Form and Performing Arts College

Arts Policy

Definition

The legacy of us being a specialist Performing Arts College means that dance, drama and music in all their many and different manifestations form the basis of our definition of the Arts but it also stretches to embrace Art & Design, Media and Film, technology, Photography, creative writing and performance poetry and recognises that creativity can be found in many other subjects.

Principles

- We believe the Arts give pupils opportunities to explore their feelings, experience the spiritual aspect of the human condition, increase their knowledge, develop their skills and articulate and realise their aspirations. They provide ways of knowing, representing, presenting, interpreting, symbolising and a context for appreciating and valuing. The Arts are intrinsic components of human culture, heritage and creativity. They mirror the whole repertoire of human experience and are worthy of study in their own right. The Arts also have motivating effects that lead pupils to improve their attitudes to learning and school.
- The Arts provide a vital link with our community: our feeder primaries; partner secondaries including The Chimney House Schools and the East Cheshire Music Hub; further and higher educational establishments; parents and families; local businesses and sponsors; arts groups; the general public of South Cheshire; and the wider, national and global community. The Arts are central to Malbank's development of its extended services.

The school's over-arching aim is to provide equality of opportunity for all pupils and partners to experience a range of high quality Arts experiences, whatever their background or ability.

Aims

- To provide an entitlement Arts experiences across all art areas in Key Stage 3 and provide variety within these for further study at Key Stages 4 and 5
- To seek new and exciting opportunities for collaborative work across art forms: drama / dance / music / art / media / literature
- To enrich the school curriculum through the development of artistic experiences in other subject areas: drama in history, theatre experiences in Science and in careers education, for example

- To enrich students' curricular experiences through a breadth of extra curricular provision that encompasses residential experiences, visits, and work shops
- To celebrate student achievement in the Arts through public performances and presentations of work
- To adopt a 'school wide' learning perspective for Arts education that addresses the needs of both students and staff in terms of their own professional development
- To ensure that the best possible resource provision is maintained and developed, in order to optimise the learning environment for all
- To use our Community Arts Officer to make a significant impact positively on the Arts experience of all our partners and raises standards of attainment in our partner schools

Strategies

In order to achieve this:

- All pupils may study Art, Music, Drama, Applied Performing Arts and Dance up to GCSE and, except Dance, to AS / A2 Level.
- A wide range of extra-curricular arts provision is available, including choirs, concert band, jazz band, dance companies, art club, tech club, an annual school production involving several departments, public performances that include: a pop concert, a spring concert, a Christmas concert, a dance showcase.
- Art experiences are provided through international travel, exhibitions, shows and extra-curricular clubs.
- Residential experiences are provided to give students quality time to develop their artistic abilities. These include: Dance and Drama residentials and Art courses. The Cheshire owned Conway Centre on Anglesey is a key venue.
- Overseas visits are also available: recent music tours have been to Salzburg, Evian and Bruges.
- Close links with the creative industries are established. We have a partnership with the Liverpool Everyman Theatre.
- Our resources and expertise are available for community use. Inset for partner teachers is organised. Projects are devised which bring together pupils from our partner schools. Malbank provides a well-equipped and attractive venue for community arts events and is by open as an independent cinema.

Jeannette Walker/Stacey Falamarzi/Sep/2016

For Review in September 2018

Signed: _____ Headteacher

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

